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ESSAY *on the* RISE *and* PROGRESS *of* GARDENING *in* IRELAND.

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" Gardening is entitled to a place of conſiderable rank among the liberal arts. It is as " ſuperior to landſcape painting as a reality to a repreſentation."

WHEATLEY.

Read May 16, 1790.

" A MAN ſhall ever ſee (ſays Lord Bacon) that when ages " grow to civility and elegance, men come to build ſtately, ſooner " than to garden finely; as if gardening were the greater per- " fection." This obſervation has been fully exemplified in Ireland: Architecture had arrived at maturity in this iſland, while gardening was yet in its infancy. Each religious edifice, it is true, had a garden and an Avalgort (or orchard) annexed to it; but it appears from inquiſitions taken in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, that this garden ſeldom conſiſted of more than an acre, and was ſolely devoted to the propagation of culinary herbs,—ſave when a ſmall part was appropriated to the

 Finavain,

Finavain (or vineyard) *. Nor did it uſually receive any embelliſhment from architecture. The pigeon-houſe and dove-houſe, which were the general appendages of monaſtic gardens, were not raiſed by the hand of taſte; I can only find in the garden of Grey-abbey, founded in the year 1193, in the county of Down, an attempt at architectural embelliſhment: "In the gardens of "this abbey (ſays Harris) is a large well of ſweet and limpid "water, over which is raiſed an high vaulted arch, ornamented "with heads and ſome other ſculpture in ſtone, which ſeem to "be the ſame piece of architecture that ſtood here when the "abbey ſubſiſted †."

NEITHER does it appear that the ſtately caſtles of our chieftains were furniſhed with pleaſure-grounds. Indeed the perturbed ſtate of the kingdom, during many ages, forbade it. No part of the Iriſh chieftain's territory was ſafe from the ſpoiler, but ſo much as was encompaſſed with the caſtle walls; ſo that, inſtead of wandering beſide a murmuring ſtream, muſing in an arbor, or extending his toil-worn limbs on a ſoft bank beneath a ſpreading tree, the veteran warriour was obliged to be contented with a view of the circumjacent country from his ramparts ‡. "For Ireland (ſays Moryſon) being oft troubled "with

* In an Iriſh Almanack of the fourteenth century, in the poſſeſſion of my learned friend Colonel Vallancey, the time of gathering grapes, and drinking muſd or new wine, is noticed.

† *Hiſtory of County Down*, p. 55.

‡ It appears, indeed, from Sir John Harrington's *Report to Queen Elizabeth concerning the Earl of Eſſex's Journey in Ireland in* 1599, that a garden capable of containing three hundred men then appertained to the caſtle of Cahir in the county of Tipperary. *Nugæ Antiq.* vol. ii. p. 161. But the ſituation of this caſtle, on an almoſt impregnable rock, in the river Suir, protected its garden from depredation.

" with rebellions, and the rebels not only idle themſelves, but " in natural malice deſtroying the labours of other men, and " cutting up the very trees of fruits for the ſame cauſe, or " elſe to burne them. For theſe reaſons (he continues) the inha- " bitants take leſſe pleaſure to till their grounds, or plant trees, " content to live for the day in continual fear of like miſchief *." Nay, even the cattle of the chieftains, as they ranged his paſtures, were in danger of moleſtation; and the office of the gentle herdſman was ſupplied by a vigilant guard of armed men, who, at the approach of night, drove their charge into the bawn of the caſtle †.

UNDER ſuch circumſtances it was impoſſible that the art of gardening could make any conſiderable advances in Ireland. The hand of rapine reſtrained it; and the church, whoſe ſanctity alone could protect it, took little pains to facilitate its progreſs. We are, therefore, naturally ſurpriſed to find the Brehons promulgating laws to protect ornamental as well as uſeful trees. As theſe laws are extremely curious, and ſerve to aſcertain the ſeveral kinds of trees cultivated by the early Iriſh, I ſhall make no apology for tranſcribing them here.

" WHAT are the timber treſpaſſes? Cutting down trees and " taking them away; as airigh timber, athar timber, fogla tim- " ber, and loſa timber."

" AIRIGH

* *Itiner.* Part iii. p. 159.

† The manner of encloſing the bawn was preſcribed by the Brehons. See *Collect. de Reb. Hib.* vol. iii. p. 72. The paſſage deſerves to be conſulted, as it ſhews the nature of the fence in uſe amongſt the Iriſh in the primitive ages.

" AIRIGH timber are, oak, hazle, holly, yew *, Indian pine " and apple; five cows penalty for cutting down theſe trees; " yearling cow-calves for cutting the limbs; and heifers for " cutting the branches."

" ATHAR wood are, aldar, willow, hawthorn, quickbeam, " birch, elm †; a cow for each tree, a heifer for the branches."

" FOGLA wood are, blackthorn, elder, ſpindle-tree, white " hazel, aſpen; theſe are the woods on which the law gives " treſpaſs, viz. a heifer for each."

" LOSA wood (or fire-wood), fern, furze, briar, heath, ivy, " reeds, thornbuſh; a fine on each ‡."

I AM

* I am induced to conclude that the Yew tree did not formerly (at leaſt during the middle ages) abound in Ireland, from the circumſtance of an act being ordained in 12 Edw. iv. to oblige all merchants who imported goods into this kingdom to *import*, at the ſame time, a certain number of bows, which can only be properly made of this wood. Yet yew trees, ſo large as thirty inches in diameter, are frequently found in our bogs.

† This muſt have been the witch hazle, commonly called the Scotch elm; for the lofty elm now in uſe for groves, and in the laſt century for avenues, was introduced by the Engliſh. An elm of this genus, of an immenſe ſize, which grew near Newbridge *in* the county of Kildare, and whoſe leafy honours I remember to have ſeen laid in the duſt by a great ſtorm, is thus celebrated by the reverend Samuel Shepherd, in his poem of *Leixlip*:

" Mark where yon Elm renews his annual prime,
" Newbridge thy glory, and the boaſt of time;
" From age to age he looks majeſtic down,
" Spreads his broad arms, and covers half the town.

‡ *Collect. de Reb. Hib.* vol. iii. p. 77, 78, 79: We are not to be ſurpriſed at the ſeveral foreſt trees mentioned in thoſe laws, for Ireland, though now almoſt totally denuded of woods, once abounded

I AM ſurpriſed to obſerve the arbutus omitted amongſt the ſeveral trees enumerated in theſe laws, as it is allowed by Evelyn* to be indigenous to Ireland. But it was probably then confined to the diſtrict of Killarney, where it waſted

" its ſweetneſs on the deſart air,"

until tranſplanted into our modern gardens.

FROM the complexion of the code whence I have extracted thoſe laws, I am induced to think that the church was concerned in its formation; for though the primitive chriſtian clergy did not often exerciſe their influence in promoting the arts, they ſeldom forgot to employ it in the protection of their property. I am the rather confirmed in this opinion by finding a nurſery belonging

abounded in them. Vide *Nat. Hiſt. of Irel.* by Boate and Molyneaux. Taſſo ſpeaks of " l'alte ſelve," of Ireland. *Geru. Lib.* cant. 1.

I cannot here omit a pertinent paſſage in a letter which I lately received from my friend, Sylveſter O'Halloran, Eſq; " That different and various ſpecies of Fir (ſays he) were kept " in high preſervation (in Ireland), I know, and every curious man may know, from the bog " deal uſed in the country for lighting fires, and ſometimes by the poor as a ſuccedaneum for " candles. You will find them of various ſmells, ſome of them yielding aromatic odours " equal to thoſe of the moſt precious balſams."

* *Sylva.* p. 177. Mr. Leſlie, in his poem of *Killarney*, beſtows ſeveral lines on the Arbutus, as a native of this romantic ſpot, and concludes his deſcription thus:

" While other tribes but tranſient charms aſſume,
" Theſe through Killarney's wilds perennial bloom."

I think it is conjectured by Derrick (ſee his *Letters*), and with plauſibility, that the Arbutus was brought from the Continent to Killarney by ſome of the monks who ſettled in its iſlands.

belonging to the priory of Kilmainham ſo early as the year 1338; for this nurſery, it appears, ſtood without the walls, ſo that it required the protection of the ſecular laws*

If hiſtoric evidence concerning our early anceſtors' ignorance of, or inattention to the art of gardening, was wanting, negative proofs of both might be deduced from their poets †. In no ancient Iriſh poem, or work of fancy that has fallen under my obſervation, have I diſcovered a deſcription of, or even an alluſion to a garden; nothing but ſuch natural objects, uncombined by art, as abound in the poems attributed to Oſſian, are to be found in the productions of our early bards; all their ſcenery is wild and romantic as that of Salvator Roſa ‡. Nor indeed do the Iriſh poets of the laſt century often reſort to the garden for imagery, for as yet gardens did not abound in Ireland; my memory, at preſent, affords me but two inſtances, which I ſhall give in the elegant tranſlation of Miſs Brooke. The unfortunate Edmund Ryan, who was involved in the miſeries which enſued to ſuch of

* *Monaſt. Hib.* p. 234.

† Since writing the above I have found mention of gardens in an ancient inedited code of Brehon laws, ordained for the protection of Bees, which were, I find, deemed the moſt valuable part of the property of the early Iriſh. I will tranſcribe two of thoſe laws:

"Whoever plunders or ſteals Bees from out of a garden or fort is ſubject to a like penalty as if "he ſteal them out of a habitation, for theſe are ordained of equal penalty by law."

"Bees in an encloſure or fort, and in a garden, are of the ſame account (as to property, "penalty, &c.) as the wealth or ſubſtance of an habitation."

‡ See Mr. Macpherſon's *Tranſ. of the Works of Oſſian.*

of his countrymen as joined the forces of King James at the battle of the Boyne, thus ſings to his falſe miſtreſs:

" Sweet would ſeem the holly's ſhade,
" Bright the cluſt'ring berries glowing;
" And, in ſcented bloom array'd,
" Apple-bloſſoms round us blowing.

" Creſſes, waving in the ſtream,
" Flowers its gentle banks perfuming;
" Sweet the verdant paths would ſeem,
" All in rich luxuriance blooming *."

And Carolan is indebted to the garden for this delicate compliment to Mable Kelly:

" As when the ſoftly bluſhing roſe
" Cloſe by ſome neighbouring lily grows;
" Such is the glow thy cheeks diffuſe,
" And ſuch their bright and blended hues †."

But to reſume the thread of this eſſay: The faint attempts at gardening by the monks were totally defeated by the Reformation. Stripped of their lands, and their habitations, and turned adrift on this " ſea of troubles," they could no longer ſay to one another in the words of Candide, " *il faut cultiver* " *notre jardin.*" So that Fynes Moryſon (a minute obſerver) who

* *Reliq. of Iriſh Poetry*, p. 210.

† *Ibid.* p. 251.

who travelled through this kingdom in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, does not once mention a garden as appertaining either to a caſtle or a monaſtery: He only ſays, "I obſerved, that the beſt ſort of flowers and fruits are much "rarer in Ireland than in England, which notwithſtanding is "more to be attributed to the inhabitants, than to the ayre *." But it is not to be omitted in the annals of gardening, that in this reign, cherries were firſt introduced into Ireland by Sir Walter Raleigh, and planted in a garden, ſtill exiſting, at Affane in the county of Waterford; a place equally memorable for having given birth, in this kingdom, to cyder, a beverage, which, in Philips' opinion,

"———————— far ſurmounts
"Gallic or Latin grapes †."

Soon as the Engliſh had ſubdued the martial ſpirit of the Iriſh, and obtained for themſelves the peaceable enjoyment of the lands which they had won with their reeking ſwords, they introduced the formal ſtyle of gardening, which then, and for ſome years before, prevailed in England ‡. Of this ſtyle ſeveral ſpecimens

* *Itiner.* Part. iii. p. 159.

† *Cyder.* Book i. p. 159. The apple called the red-ſtreak was firſt brought over from Herefordſhire, in the laſt century, by a Mr. Reeves, of Torreen in the neighbourhood of Affane, and propagated with great ſucceſs in his garden; though Philips ſays it

"———————— doth diſdain
"All other fields,"

it may be now found in almoſt every orchard in this kingdom.

‡ The reader may form an idea of this ſtyle of gardening from Henztner's deſcription of Nonſuch. *Travels*, p. 83. Markham's *Huſbandman*, par. ii. ch. 17. and *Britan. Illuſt.* by Knyff. and Kip.

cimens remained till very lately in this kingdom. " At Bally-
" beggan, in the county of Kerry (ſays Dr. Smith) there are
" ſome good old improvements which eſcaped the univerſal de-
" vaſtations of the times, particularly ſome fine avenues of wal-
" nut, cheſnut and other trees; with a large old, but thriving
" orchard, planted in a rich limeſtone ground, beneath which
" are ſeveral ſubterraneous chambers, lined with ſtalactitical
" exſudations *." The ſame author informs us, that at Bangor in the county of Down, " there are gardens which are large
" and handſome, and filled with noble ever-greens of a great
" ſize, cut in various ſhapes." At Liſterne, in the county of Waterford, we are alſo informed by Dr. Smith, that " there
" was a large and beautiful canal, at the further end of which
" is a *jet d'eau* that caſt up water to a conſiderable height †." And a learned friend, in a letter now before me, ſays, that he ſaw ſome years ſince, in the county of Cork, a very old garden carefully preſerved, which he thus deſcribes: " It conſiſted of
" fourteen acres eneloſed with an high wall; two acres were ap-
" propriated to a nut-grove. It had a large fiſh-pond, a bathing
" houſe, monſtrous high yew-hedges, and ſome laurel ones;
" theſe were cut into fantaſtical forms, obſcuring the rays of the
" ſun. Here were alſo large graſs plats in various figures." Nor ſhould I omit the penſile gardens of Thomas-town in the county

* *Hiſt. of County Kerry.* Subterranean ſtructures of high antiquity abound in Ireland; but the vaults at Ballybeggan were probably coeval with the gardens, and built in imitation of the ancient Engliſh bower. Roſamond's bower is ſuppoſed to have been of that kind. See *Anecd. of Paint. in Engl.* vol. iv. p. 263.

† *Hiſt. of Count. Waterf.*

of Tipperary, which were laid out in the reign of Charles II. They lie principally on the gentle declivity of an hill, reſting on terraces, and filled with

" ſtatues thick as trees."

A long fiſh-pond, ſleeping under " a green mantle" between two rectilineous banks, appears in the midſt. And in one corner ſtands a verdant theatre (once the ſcene of ſeveral dramatic exhibitions) diſplaying all the abſurdity of the architecture of gardening.

THUS did our anceſtors, governed by the falſe taſte which they imbibed from the Engliſh, disfigure, with unſuitable ornaments, the ſimple garb of nature.

IN the reign of Charles I. gardens became the care of the legiſlature, and an act was paſſed in the tenth year of his reign to protect their productions. This act is entitled, *An Act to avoyd and prevent divers miſdemeanors in idle and lewd perſons in barking of trees, &c.* Nor were they unworthy the care of the legiſlature if they reſembled, in general, Lord Chicheſter's garden at Carrickfergus, as I find it deſcribed by an anonymous traveller, whoſe inedited account of his tour in Ireland in the year 1634 is now in my poſſeſſion. " The onely grace of this " towne (ſays my manuſcript) is the Lord Chicheſter's houſe, " which is a verye ſtatelye houſe, or rather like a prince's pa- " lace; whereunto there belongs a ſtatelye gate-houſe, and grace- " full terrace: and walke before the houſe, as is att Denton, my " Lord

" Lord Fairefax' houſe. A verye fine hall there is, and a ſtately " ſtairecaſe, and faire dineing room, carrying the proportion of " the hall: Fine garden, and mightye ſpatious orchards, and " they ſay they have good ſtore of fruite. I obſerved on either " ſide of this garden there is a dove-houſe placed one oppoſite to " the other in the corner of the garden, and twixt the garden " and orchards. A moſt convenient place for apricockes, or " ſome ſuch tender fruite, to be planted againſt the dove-houſe " wall, that by the advantage of the heate thereof, they may " be rendered more fruitfull, and come ſooner to maturitie: " but this uſe is not made thereof *."

BUT in the reign of Charles II. we find ſome of the clergy of the eſtabliſhed church, content to forego the academic ſhade and the luxury of pleaſure grounds, ſoliciting permiſſion of parliament to turn their gardens to account. Their prayer being propitiouſly heard, an act was accordingly ordained, enabling *Preſentor and Treaſurer of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick's*,

* It ſhould ſeem from the concluſion of our traveller's deſcription of Lord Chicheſter's gardens, that the happy invention of the hot-houſe had not yet reached Ireland; at leaſt that it had not found its way into his Lordſhip's improvements. But this is not to be wondered at; for Mr. Barrington thinks there was not an hot-houſe in England earlier than the year 1667. *Archæol.* vol. vii. p. 123. However, if tradition may be relied on, fruit were forced in the gardens of Bleſſington, in the reign of James II. Theſe gardens were laid out by an Engliſh gentleman, who abandoned his eſtate at Byflet in Suſſex, to eſcape the perſecution of Cromwell. But I am confidently aſſured that the firſt pine-apples produced in this kingdom were raiſed by Bullen, a native of Weſtmoreland, who ſettled in the vicinity of Dublin in the reign of Queen Anne. Of his gardens in New-ſtreet ſome traces ſtill remain. He had a nurſery, conſiſting of four acres, which he held under one Rowe, who had been his predeceſſor in that line. He was employed, like London and Wiſe, by the nobility and gentry, in laying out their gardens.

Patrick's, Dublin, and the Arch-Deacon of Dublin, to make leaſes of part of their yards and gardens for ſixty years."

THE French and Italian mode of gardening, which had been introduced by the Engliſh, continued to prevail in Ireland until the arrival of William III. when it ſoon yielded to the Belgic ſtyle *. Such of his followers as ſettled here, indulged their paſſion for "trim gardens;" inſtead of mending, they changed the features of Nature, totally regardleſs of this golden precept,

"Conſult the genius of the place in all."

EXTENSIVELY acquainted with the vegetable kingdom, to them we probably owe the introduction of flowers †. Theſe they diſplayed

* Of this ſtyle a Specimen was given under his Majeſty's auſpices in his gardens at Chapelizod, which are now a ſcene of deſolation. In the year 1717 an overſeer of theſe gardens was placed on the civil eſtabliſhment, with a Salary of 120l. per annum.

† It will appear from the following extract from Sir Hans Sloan's preface to *A Voyage to Madeira, Barbadoes, St. Chriſtopher's and Jamaica*, that however great the obligations of the lovers of gardening in Ireland may be to the Hugonots, they are not leſs indebted to an anceſtor of the preſent Earl of Moira. Speaking of the ſamples of plants which he brought to England from Jamaica, he ſays, "amongſt other perſons who ſaw them was Sir Arthur "Rawdon, who obſerving the great variety of plants I had brought with me, ſent over Mr. "James Harlow, a gardener (who had formerly gone to Virginia for Mr. Watts), to bring "the plants themſelves alive to him, for his garden at Moyra in Ireland. This Mr. Harlow "performed, and there they grew, and came, many of them, to great perfection. He not only "brought over with him a ſhip almoſt laden with caſes of trees and herbs, planted and growing "in earth, but alſo a great number of ſamples of them, very well preſerved, in paper."

While this ſheet was in the Preſs, I was informed by the Earl of Moira that Mr. Harlow built a large ſtove at Moira, by order of Sir Arthur Rawdon, for his Jamaican plants. This ſtove was removed by Sir John Rawdon, his Lordſhip's father.

played in quaint knots, deſigned with geometric ſkill, and edged with box *. It is true, as Moryſon ſays, that in his time "Ireland was not quite deſtitute of flowers," and inſtances the county of Kilkenny as moſt abounding in them †. A few flowers might, perhaps, have been propagated by the Engliſh ſettlers; but it is to the Hugonots we are to attribute their diffuſion through the kingdom, and to them therefore I have ventured to give the honour of their introduction ‡. I would, however, be underſtood to ſpeak of exotics, for many a beautiful flower grows ſpontaneouſly in ſeveral parts of this kingdom where the human foot has ſeldom made an impreſſion §. To the Hugonots too are we chiefly indebted for our knowledge of the uſe of the ſheers, that enemy "to the lovely "wildneſs

* Theſe knots were probably conſtructed according to the rules laid down by Markham. See *Engl. Huſband.* par. ii. p. 297. Several of his patterns of knots and mazes I find faithfully copied in a muſic book now before me, dated in 1700, which appears to have belonged to an eminent gardener in the county of Meath. The barras or box employed in edging thoſe knots was an article of importation in the reign of Charles II. See Bacon's *Book of Rates.*

† It is ſomewhere recorded that when the Earl of Eſſex, in his progreſs through Ireland in the year 1599, viſited Kilkenny, amongſt other demonſtrations of joy the ſtreets were ſtrewed with flowers.

‡ In the reign of George I. ſome of the Hugonots of Dublin, together with a few of their fellow citizens, formed themſelves into a club, called "The Floriſt's Club," for the purpoſe of furthering the cultivation of flowers in this kingdom. They held their meetings, for many years, at the Roſe-Tavern in Drumcondra-lane (now Dorſet-ſtreet), where they adjudged premiums to the members who produced the moſt beautiful flowers to the Club on given days. This club exiſted till the cloſe of the reign of George II. The Roſe-Tavern is ſtill in being.

§ Mr. Leſlie, in his poem of *Killarney* already quoted, ſpeaks of ſeveral flowers and ſhrubs growing naturally on the mountain of Mangerton, which hold a diſtinguiſhed rank amongſt the favourite productions of the modern garden; but he omits the myrtle, which flouriſhes not only in the wilds of the counties of Wexford and Wicklow, but on ſeveral of the iſlands in the lake of Killarney.

" wildneſs of form with which nature (ſays the elegant Walpole) " has diſtinguiſhed each various ſpecies of trees and ſhrubs." This direful engine began its depredations in the neighbourhood of Dublin, and continued them, with unremitting fury, amongſt all the noblemen's and gentlemen's ſeats in the kingdom. Neither a box nor a yew tree were now to be found which had not aſſumed the human ſhape, or that of ſome inferior animal *. Like Milton's genius of the woods, to

" ———————— curl the grove
" With ringlets quaint,"

was now the buſineſs of every gardener. Even water was no longer permitted to flow in the undulating line of nature: checked in its courſe, it was ſpread into an expanſe, which a mathematical figure was taught to circumſcribe. Such is the powerful influence of cuſtom, that though " the mind of man " (ſays Addiſon) naturally hates every thing that looks like a " reſtraint upon it, and is apt to fancy itſelf under a ſort of " confinement

* An old gentleman of my acquaintance remembers to have ſeen in Mr. Fortick's garden, near Drumcondra (Dublin) the figures of men with their arms in various poſitions, cut in yew and box; and the figure of a coloſſal gooſe in the latter. He recollects alſo to have obſerved, in the garden of Beamore in the county of Meath, the repreſentation of a large cock, with briſtled feathers, cut in yew; and in the gardens of Bullen, in New-ſtreet, Dublin, which were laid out in the reign of Queen Anne, as already mentioned, there were an hare hunt and a boar hunt in box. But this fantaſtical faſhion was of earlier date in Ireland; the anonymous traveller already quoted (See p. 12.), in deſcribing Biſhop Uſher's Palace at Drogheda, ſays, " here is a prettie neat garden, and over againſt the window, in the gallery end, upon a bank, " theſe words in fair great letters are written, *Oh, Man, remember the laſt great day!* The bank " is bare, the proportion of the letters is framed and cut in graſs."

" confinement when the ſight is pent up in a narrow compaſs," yet theſe formal followers of King William, ſtrangers perhaps, or averſe to the ſunk fence, reared lofty walls around their improvements, and unkindly ſhut out the view of the neighbouring country. However, they are to be excuſed: they came from a country incapable of landſcape.

But they did not confine their conſtraint of nature to the limits of the garden: they trammelled her wherever they attempted to heighten her charms. The whole demeſne confeſſed their tyrannic power. Even the avenue aſſumed the gloom and appearance of the gothic cloiſter: the ſtately pine, the murky fir, or the " ſtar-proof" elm, were marſhalled in fraternal rows, nodding at each other, until their intermingled branches formed a verdant canopy excluding the face of Heaven *. Paſſing from this gloom you aſcended to the dwelling-houſe, with " aching feet," terraces piled on terraces, covered with green parterres " buttoned round" with flower-pots, and bearing on pedeſtals in their centres the whole progeny of the heathen deities. Let it not be ſuppoſed I am indulging in fanciful deſcriptions: I write from the information of my own obſervation: I have beheld in different parts of the kingdom

 veſtiges

* Some years ſince I ſaw in the Earl of Clanbraſſil's gardens, at Dundalk, a walk anſwering this deſcription. It reminded me of the long viſta through a Gothic cathedral; and might, I think, be ſafely adduced in ſupport of Biſhop Warburton's ingenious conjecture concerning the original of Gothic architecture.

veſtiges of the ſcenes which I am here attempting to delineate.

But Nature, with the aid of Taſte, has at length prevailed, and proclaimed with an exalted voice, her proud beheſts through the land——

——————" at the awful ſound
" The terrace ſinks ſpontaneous; on the green,
" Broider'd with criſped knots, the tonſile yews
" Wither and fall; the fountain dares no more
" To fling its waſted cryſtal through the ſky,
" But pours ſalubrious o'er the parched lawn
" Rills of fertility *."

Did I not fear I ſhould exceed the limits which I have preſcribed to this little memoir, I would give a deſcriptive enumeration of ſeveral demeſnes in this kingdom, which Browne, the ſucceſſor of Kent (that great competitor of Nature) would be proud

* Maſon's *Eng. Garden.* cant. ii. Perhaps the firſt attempt at modern gardening in Ireland was made by the reverend Doctor Delany, at Delville near Glaſſnevin. Like Pope, he impreſſed a vaſt deal of beauty on a very ſmall ſpot of ground. Nor is it improbable that Pope, with whom he lived in habits of intimacy, taught him to ſoften into a curve the obdurate ſtraight line of the Dutch, to melt the terrace into a ſwelling bank, and to open his walks to catch the vicinal country. Theſe gardens ſtill remain a monument of Delany's taſte. Swift has left an humorous poetical deſcription of them, in which, though he has contracted the features, he has preſerved the likeneſs.

proud to number with the happieſt proofs of his genius. It is, indeed, with much reluctance I lay down my pen, without eſſaying to do juſtice to the beauties of Marino, Caſtletown, Carton, Curraghmore, the ſweet-ſequeſtered retreat of St. Woolſtan's, or the paradiſe which the Earl of Moira has opened in the wilds of the county of Down.